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"Then, by comparing the differences of the anomalies, afforded first by the parabolic theory *per se*, and secondly by it and the observations combined; and by tracing the effects upon those differences of variations in the above fundamental elements, I found, after about four approximations,

$\nu - u = -(1' - 19'')$ for the error of anomaly between the 8th and 13th

and $\nu' - u' = +(4' - 12'')$ — — — 8th and 27th

"The above errors might be almost eliminated by varying slightly the time of perihelion passage; but, without taking aberration and parallax into account, further calculation would appear to be labour thrown away.

"The corresponding elements are as follow:—

"*Elements.*

Time of Perihelion Passage, March 24·0501

Perihelion Distance	·27975
	° ′
Longitude of Perihelion on Ecliptic	171 21
Longitude of Ascending Node	316 28
Inclination of Orbit	81 20

Motion retrograde.

"Hence it seems that the comet is not one whose elements have been already ascertained. There is, however, a considerable approach to agreement between some of its elements and the corresponding ones of a comet observed by Hevelius in 1677, the orbit of which was calculated by the celebrated Halley.

"Thus:—

	Motion.	Perihelion Distance.	Inclination. ° ′
Comet of 1677	Retrograde	·28059	79 3
Comet of 1854	Retrograde	·27975	81 20

"*Madras, May 16th*, 1854."

Elements of Proserpine, for the Opposition in 1854.

Computed by Mr. George Rümker, Observer at the Observatory, Durham, from the following four normal places, deduced from all the recorded observations at her last appearance:—

1853.	R.A. ° ′ ″	N.P.D. ° ′ ″	
May 20·5	205 10 21·8	99 49 5·5	from 27 observations.
June 3·0	204 3 20·1	99 47 55·9	— 14 —
27·0	204 12 20·1	100 13 41·2	— 9 —
July 6·0	206 23 23·7	101 28 7·9	— 14 —

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	° ′ ″	
M	349 16 41·9	1853, June 0·0
π	235 24 35·7	1853·0
λ	45 55 18·0	
ι	3 35 45·0	
φ	4 55 51·1	
Log a	0·4236444	
Log μ	2·914541	

The following are the errors (computed—observed) in longitude and latitude:—

	″	″
May 20·5	−0·4	+1·2
June 3·0	−0·1	−1·0
17·0	+0·3	−1·3
July 6·0	+0·6	+1·0

The errors in R.A. and N.P.D. of two observations at Washington, on the 23d and 24th of July, not included in those from which the elements are obtained, are

	δa ″	δp ″
July 23	+2·8	−0·2
24	−2·5	−1·7

The foregoing elements were accompanied with an ephemeris of the planet for the opposition of 1854, extending from July 15 to August 24. A few printed copies have been forwarded by Prof. Chevallier to the Apartments of the Society for distribution.

Notes on the Second Comet of 1854. By the Rev. T. W. Webb.

"As far as my opportunities of information have extended, this fine and conspicuous comet appears to have been noticed at Ross, in the county of Hereford, on the evening previous to its general recognition by English astronomers. About $7^h\ 30^m$ P.M. on the 28th of March, it was pointed out by an intelligent little boy of ten years old as "a stranger in the sky," and in consequence was seen by several persons before it sank into a bank of clouds in the N.W. horizon. From one of these, my friend, Mr. W. H. Purchas, I received immediate information of its appearance, and was thus enabled to watch its progress every night except two, from March 29th to April 5th, with a good achromatic by Tulley, of 5½ feet focal length, and 3·7 inches aperture. In this and smaller glasses, as well as to the unassisted eye, it uniformly appeared in all its parts of a pale orange or fiery hue, and of an aspect which would have been deemed in former times terrible and portentous.

"During the earlier observations, with low powers, and comparatively near the horizon, the brilliant nucleus, of several seconds in diameter, was seen suddenly but not sharply defined, having

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